

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Mark Couey
Investigative Assistance Division
(360) 704-2392 – office
(360) 704-2973 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

Date January 3, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact: Name Detective Sergeant Dan Sharp
Phone 360-704-2393

Missing & Exploited Children Task Force 2005 Annual Report

The Washington State Patrol's (WSP) multi-agency Missing and Exploited Children Task Force was established in 1999 by the state legislature to assist law enforcement, state agencies, and custodial parents(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. Each year, the unit reports on its performance to the legislature through an Annual Report.

In 2005, the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force detectives conducted 43 investigations and recovered seven missing children. These cases included 15 internet/computer crimes against children cases, 16 exploited children cases, six custodial interference cases, two traveler cases, two runaway cases, one abduction case, and one case involving the suspicious death of an infant.

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force completed two proactive investigations utilizing online and Internet undercover equipment. These online investigations known as "traveler cases" involve suspects who agreed to travel to meet children they seduced online. Arrests were made in each case.

A copy of the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force 2005 Annual Report can be viewed or downloaded online at: http://www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/mectf_annual_report_2005.pdf. The report can also be viewed at the State Library located at Point Plaza East, 6880 Capitol Blvd, Tumwater, WA, and (360) 704-5200. For more information about the Task Force, please contact Detective Sergeant Dan L. Sharp at (360) 704-2390 or visit the task force's webpage at www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm.

###